

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
November 27, 2001

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:09 p.m., Tuesday, November 27, 2001, in the Library of Grafton High/Middle School, by Chairman James S. Burgett.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Donald E. Wiggins, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE YORK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Members Present: Page Minter, Chairman; Barbara Haywood; Barrent M. Henry; Mark Medford; and Don Felling.

Also present were Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Schools; Richard M. Hixson, Deputy Superintendent of Operations; and Dr. Valerie A. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction.

DISTANCE LEARNING CLASSROOM DEMONSTRATION (Not on Agenda)

Dr. Staples spoke of the Distance Learning Program whereby a teacher can teach from one facility to students located in another facility which allows the opening of programs at one school to other schools.

The Board of Supervisors and School Board then adjourned to a nearby classroom to watch a demonstration of the Distance Learning Program.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Hixson and Anne B. Smith, Director of Community Services, made a presentation concerning the provision of grounds maintenance services to school facilities. The County and Schools grounds maintenance operations and personnel were combined many years ago in order to provide more intense and complex grounds maintenance services for the County's facilities and schools. Photographs were displayed showing the two Boards a comparison between how the school facilities looked in 1980 and how they look today. Information was provided to the Board members on the different classifications of grounds facilities, and it was noted that each classification requires a different protocol.

Mr. Hixson spoke of the study that was completed on the grounds maintenance functions in terms of whether or not to privatize the operations, and conclusions included:

- There was a better understanding of the challenges facing the grounds maintenance services and the quality of the services provided.
- The two Boards showed wisdom in eliminating the duplication of resources by combining the County and Schools grounds maintenance functions.
- The collaboration of the two staffs has been highly beneficial over the years.
- There is no single customer for grounds maintenance—privatization would not address the political aspects of handling the different needs of the many different customers being served.

Mr. Hixson indicated when a rewrite of the grounds maintenance agreement is forwarded to the two boards, there will be a couple of specific elements included such as

- a number of detailed specific criteria for different types of grounds maintenance.
- all expenses occurring for grounds maintenance on a school site will be included in the line item for grounds maintenance so that the total cost of maintaining a particular campus is known.
- Only the superintendent's designee will be the point of contact between the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and the School Division.
- Multi-year implementation.
- Snow removal and capital maintenance will be placed in the County's CIP.

Discussion followed concerning the proposed cost of a new grounds maintenance agreement, the level of services to be provided by a new agreement, the use of volunteers and parent involvement in the grounds maintenance process, and an evaluation process for the school sites as to need priorities.

Meeting Recessed. At 7:20 p.m. Chairman Burgett declared a short recess.

Meeting Reconvened. At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was reconvened in open session by order of the Chair.

FY2003 BUDGET OUTLOOK

Mr. Dennis Jarrett, School Division Director of Finance, made a presentation on the revenue outlook for the School Division in FY2003. The revenue assumptions included an enrollment projection of 11,960 students and an impact aid projection of \$600,000 based on the FY2002 proposed Federal budget. He then discussed State revenue, stating that it was the beginning of a new biennium. The composite index will change, and State tax collections are less than projected for the first four months of FY2002. He then discussed the JLARC study on the Standards of Quality (SOQ), stating the key findings show that the State is not fully funding the SOQs and the Standards of Learning (SOL) are not budget neutral. Mr. Jarrett noted the three

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major concerns of the JLARC are teacher salaries, non-SOQ funding, and funding for administrative personnel.

Mr. McReynolds then briefed the two boards on the FY2003 County revenue projections. In terms of local revenue, staff is expecting property taxes to increase 8 to 9 percent; no increase is expected for other local taxes. All other local revenues are not expected to rise. On the State side, the County should see a level amount for shared expenses from the Compensation Board to the 2002 budget, and categorical aid and grants should also remain level. Transfers for activities such as grounds maintenance and law enforcement should increase 2 to 3 percent, and other State revenue will show only a minor increase over the 2002 budget. Mr. McReynolds noted that compared to the FY2002 budget, only moderate growth is expected. Concerns include the strength of the economy and State funding of current programs. Overall, the County can expect a \$4.5 million to \$5 million increase over last year. He then discussed the employee compensation system, explaining that a benchmarking system is used for the non-licensed (non-teaching) employees, both County and School Division, through a comparison of pay scales in market areas to maintain competitiveness of the County's pay plan. Based on the benchmarking study, a 2.75 percent market adjustment would be recommended for FY2003 non-licensed County and School personnel.

Mr. Jarrett then briefed the Boards on the licensed personnel (teaching) salary scale, noting that the scale was based on the work of the 1995 Compensation Committee. He explained the compensation lanes, indicating they were based on education level obtained, and that the goal of the Committee was for the personnel to be in the top third of the local market. He noted the County model maintains a pay plan which places starting salaries for positions near the middle of state-wide market area pay scales. The recommendation for licensed employee compensation in FY2003 would be \$505,000 for the step increases and a 3.3 percent market adjustment which equates to \$1.22 million.

Mr. McReynolds addressed the estimated County funding requirements and issues for Fiscal Year 2003, which include:

• Contribution to Schools	\$1,700,000
• Employee compensation	1,200,000
• New Programs/Personnel	450,000
• Capital/Debt	200,000
• Shared/Regional	250,000
• Communications Upgrade	225,000
• Economic Development	200,000
• Other	<u>250,000</u>
TOTAL	\$4,475,000

Mr. McReynolds then addressed the School's estimated requirements for employee compensation, noting that the issues currently identified totaled nearly \$3 million; and given that estimated new revenues currently identified totaled \$2.3 million, there exists an estimated funding gap of approximately \$700,000. He stated that he and Mr. Jarrett would continue to monitor state and federal revenues and keep the Boards posted.

Meeting Adjourned. At 9:09 p.m. Chairman Burgett declared the meeting adjourned to 8:00 a.m., Monday, December 3, 2001, in the restaurant of the Duke of York Motel, for the purpose of conducting a work session with York County's legislators.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

James S. Burgett, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors